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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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FOLLOWING IS REPEAT USDEL ATLANTA 0051 SENT ACTION SECSTATE
MAY 2:

QTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USDEL ATLANTA 51

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY OVERVIEW OF OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ATLANTA, APRIL 19-MAY 1, 1974

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC
DIPLOMATIC POSTS

USDEL 38 (FINAL FROM ATLANTA)

SUMMARY: USDEL'S PRELIMINARY OVERVIEW OF THE OAS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY IS THAT IT WAS MARKED BY A PRONOUNCED OPTIMISM
ON THE FUTURE OF US-LATIN RELATIONS THOUGH IT DID NOT MAKE
MUCH PROGRESS IN ANSWERING FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION OF OAS
FUTURE ROLE IN INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS. ASSEMBLY DID HOWEVER,
SURFACE THE DESIRE BY A GOOD MANY COUNTRIES FOR THE OAS
TO PLAY A MORE IMPORTANT PART, THOUGH EVERYONE WAS HAPPY
TO CONTINUE TO GIVE FIRST PLACE TO THE MEETINGS OF
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FOREIGN MINISTERS. WITH THE MFMS HANDLING MOST OF THE

BIG ISSUES, THE OAS THROUGH ITS SPECIAL COMMITTEE SHOULD NOW BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE MORE OF ITS ENERGIES ON RE-SOLVING THE STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM. CUBA WAS A FREQUENT SUBJECT OF TALK IN ATLANTA, BUT WHILE NO ACTION WAS TAKEN, DOOR IS EVIDENTLY OPEN TO FUTURE SUCCESSFUL PSYCHOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL CHALLENGE OF SANCTIONS. PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICANT STORY OF ATLANTA WAS WHAT DID NOT HAPPEN HERE - THE ABSENCE OF A HEAD-ON COLLISION BETWEEN THE US AND LATIN AMERICA, THE TONE AND ATMOSPHERE FAVORABLY INFLUENCED BY THE MEXICO AND WASHINGTON MFM AND VERY AGREEABLE AMBIENTE OF ATLANTA. ATLANTA WAS A STEP FORWARD TOWARD MOVING THE OAS OUT OF ITS CRISIS SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

FOLLOWING ARE SOME PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ATLANTA MEETING OF THE OASGA:

1. THE ATLANTA MEETING IS ITSELF MERELY ADDED TO AN ALREADY GROWING SENTIMENT OF OPTIMISM AMONG LATIN AMERICANS CONCERNING THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. IN PARTICULAR, AMONG THE SMALLER COUNTRIES THERE WAS AN EVIDENT FEELING THAT THE "DIALOGUE" BOTH IN THE OAS AND IN THE MFMS WAS EXTREMELY USEFUL AND WOULD ULTIMATELY BE FRUITFUL. EVEN SOME OF THE LARGER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS MEXICO AND ARGENTINA, WHO CAN USUALLY MAKE THEIR WEIGHT FELT WITH US BILATERALLY, AT TIMES DEMONSTRATED A DESIRE TO REINVIGORATE THE OAS. CERTAINLY IN COMPARISON WITH PAST GENERAL ASSEMBLIES, THE ATTITUDES WERE FAVORABLE. DELEGATES WERE IN A MOOD TO WORK TOGETHER WITH THE U.S. TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS-- A MOOD EVIDENTLY ENHANCED BY THE WARM WELCOME WHICH THE CITY OF ATLANTA GAVE THE DELEGATES. THE MEETING ITSELF WAS NOT A PROBLEM-SOLVING SESSION.

THE TENDENCY WAS PREVALENT TO POSTPONE SOLUTIONS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON, AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OAS IN THE OVERALL PICTURE OF HEMISPHERE RELATIONS REMAINED CLOUDY.

2. THE DELEGATES WORKED WITH AN AGENDA WELL UNDERSTOOD BEFOREHAND TO BE LONG ON ROUTINE BUSINESS AND SHORT ON SUBSTANCE. ONLY TWO ITEMS -- MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(MNC) AND RESTRUCTURING THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM -- OVERLAPPED WITH THE AGENDA OF THE MFMS, AND THESE ITEMS WERE THE CENTRAL ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION HERE.

3. ON THE QUESTION OF MNCS, MOST DELEGATIONS RECOGNIZED AND PREFERRED THAT THE STUDY AUTHORIZED BY THE WASHINGTON MFM HAVE PRIORITY OVER ANY OTHER STUDY ON THE SUBJECT. BUT PERU AND SOME OTHERS PUCHED FOR A SEPARATE OAS STUDY

AS WELL. THEY BELIEVE THEY MIGHT HAVE GREATER INFLUENCE ON A STUDY IN THE OAS, MORE ISOLATED FROM THE COMMANDING INFLUENCE OF THE US SECRETARY OF STATE. THE OUTCOME WAS A ROLE FOR THE OAS IN THE STUDY OF MNCS, BUT A GENERAL UNDERSTANDING THAT IT WOULD BE SECONDARY TO THE MFM STUDY, AND A DESIRE ON THE PART OF SOME LATINS TO ENGAGE THE OAS IN SUPPLEMENTING THE NEW DIALOGUE.

4. AS REGARDS PRIORITIES IN THE FUTURE WORK OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, SOME AMBIVALENCE EXISTS -- WHILE THERE WAS A GENERAL FAVORABLE DISPOSITION TOWARD ATTACKING THOSE PROBLEMS WHERE PROMPT SOLUTIONS OR CONCLUSIONS MIGHT BE REACHED, THE LATINS HAVE NOT PUT ASIDE AS A TOP PRIORITY ECONOMIC QUESTIONS SUCH AS COOPERATION FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT AND COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY ON WHICH THEY ARE UNITED.

5. WITH ATLANTA, RESTRUCTURING MAY HAVE REACHED A NEW STAGE. THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE WAS ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED PRIMARILY AS A FORUM WHERE THE LATINS COULD CAJOLE THE U.S. INTO POLICIES AND ACTIONS MORE IN THE LINE WITH THEIR DESIRES. BECAUSE OF A NUMBER OF FACTORS -- AMONG THEM INITIAL SUCCESSES IN THE PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS; THE GREENE SETTLEMENT IN PERU; THE COUP IN CHILE; WAIVERS ON SALES TO CUBA BY U.S.-OWNED COMPANIES IN ARGENTINA; AND THE MANIFEST SPIRIT OF ACCOMMODATION REFLECTED IN THE MFMS -- A NEW TYPE OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE LATINS HAS GROWN UP SINCE THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE WAS CREATED. COMPARED WITH THE MFMS, THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE IS A RELATIVELY INEFFECTUAL FORUM FOR RESOLVING THE CONCEPTUAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND LATIN AMERICA. SO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE MAY FOR THE FIRST TIME TURN SOME OF ITS ATTENTION TO THE MORE TECHNICAL TASK OF MAKING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE OAS A MORE EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT FOR CONDUCTING MULTILATERAL RELATIONS IN THE HEMISPHERE. THE ASSEMBLY TOOK SEVERAL CONCRETE STEPS TOWARD STRUCTURAL REFORM-- MOST NOTABLY, STRENGTHENING THE PERMANENJSCOUNCIL. NEVERTHELESS, THE UNDERLYING CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND LATIN
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